

CENTER CREEK BIOGRAPHIES

RICHARD JONES, JR., AND
AGNES CAMPBELL JONES

Richard Jones, Jr., the eldest son of Richard and Mary Jane Cummings Jones, was born October 15, 1856 at Provo. He married Agnes Campbell on May 15, 1876. She was born February 14, 1858 at Cedar City, a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Davis Campbell. They were the parents of nine children, Elizabeth, Edward, Mary, Jennie, Thomas, Mabel, Dora, Nora and Wallace. Richard died April 25, 1926 and Agnes died January 2, 1926.

Sk Richard Jones, one of the original Provo Valley pioneers, first came to the valley in the original company in 1858. His son, Richard, Jr., was less than two at the time. When homes were established in the Spring of 1859 there was more than enough work for everyone to do, even young Richard. He took advantage of what schooling was available and learned enough, in his own words, "so that I could do my own business without any trouble in later life."

At the age of 12, Richard, Jr., drove with his father to Fort Bridger, Wyo., with two wagon loads of potatoes, each of them driving a wagon. On the way home they stopped at Echo Canyon and worked with their teams hauling ties for the Union Pacific Railroad. They received \$10 per day, good wages for the time.

When Richard Jr. turned 19 he and three others hired out to a government surveying party. In August of 1875 he, Noah Mayo, David Murdock and Wm. G. Rasband went to Strawberry Valley and from there were assigned to Green River, the mouth of the Duchesne, along the Uinta Point, Antelope and Avintaquin. While they were camping at Avintaquin they were caught in a heavy snow storm and traveled for days after their food ran out and had to kill one of their

horses for food. They finally reached Strawberry Valley where they met a search party that had been sent out for them.

From the surveying expedition, Richard Jr., received \$200 which he used to buy a new stove for his mother and to save toward marriage. He was 21 years old when he claimed his 18-year-old bride in the Endowment House. President Daniel H. Wells performed the marriage.

Agnes was born three years after her Scottish parents arrived in Utah. They lived in Cedar City and endured many difficult persecutions by the Indians. They later moved to Moroni and then to Salina, but were driven from there by Indians who stole all their cattle. The family moved to Heber in 1865 and here Agnes was able to attend school and also participate in Church activities.

When Richard and Agnes were married they had enough money to buy a bedstead, a table and six chairs. They had to charge a stove. Their first home was on the corner of Third South and Main, and here five of their children were born. In 1889 they took a homestead in Center Creek and spent several years grubbing sage brush, breaking up the land, building a house and barns and making ditches and fences.

Richard served as a Wasatch County Commissioner for four years, a member of the school board for years, and was a member of the State Land Board for some time. He liberally donated to nearly all the public buildings in Heber and Center Creek.

Richard and Agnes moved back to Heber in 1906 and took over his mother's home, leaving the farm in Center to his boys. They lived there until their deaths in 1926 just three months apart.

*Richard Jones
ed
Agnes Campbell*



One of the outstanding early dramatic productions was "Nathan Hale," produced in 1910. The cast, pictured here, included, front row, left to right, Arthur Olson, Reta Murdock, Henry Raile, Clayton Montgomery, Mona Wilcox, Orson Ryan and O. A. Whitaker. Back row, J. W. Robinson, D. A. Broadbent, Mr. Hansen, Florence Billings, Mose Whitaker, James Johnson, Attewall Wootton Jr., Jowett Fortie and Naomi Duke. Most of the cast were faculty members of the high school.

When the hall was to be used for dances, the sawdust would be swept up and the floor polished. There was ample room for six or eight sets of "The National Quadrille," or the "Rage Quadrille," which were very popular dances at the time. Other dances were the Schottische, the Jewel, Two-step and the waltz. A splendid orchestra provided music in the Opera House and was composed entirely of local musicians. Mrs. Minnie Tilt Turner played the huge Chickering grand piano and could make it ring throughout the hall. Andrew (Andy) Anderson was on the violin with Moroni (Rone) Morris, clarinetist. Adolphia R. Duke, trombonist and Clyde Willis on the cornet.

In later years the Turner Opera House, built between 2nd and 3rd N. Main, was sold by John Turner's family, used for bowling, skating and a garage, and then it was destroyed by fire.

It would be difficult to name all those who performed in early Heber dramas, but some of the more prominent in the years before or around 1900 were Elisha Averett Sr., Amelia Clegg Montgomery, Livingston Montgomery, Edward D. Clyde, Henry M. Aird, William Buys, Mr. and Mrs. James Duke, Mr. and Mrs. John Duke, Robert and Annie Duke, Mr. and Mrs. John Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Luke, John Crook Sr., Richard Jones, Ira Jacobs, Jemima Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Wil-